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Cassis Bill Looks to Restrict Out-of-State Trash

Senator to Testify Before Joint Committee

LANSING—In a continuing effort to curb out-of-state trash from flooding Michigan landfills, State Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) last week introduced Senate Bill 502, a bill that restricts waste coming into Michigan from other states or Canada unless their regulatory program is as protective as Michigan's. The bill was referred to the Senate Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee.

"Stopping foreign waste from expending our landfills has been of great importance to the citizens in the state of Michigan," Cassis said. "This bill is a step in right direction. We need to be proactive and do whatever we can while Congress debates giving states the authority to regulate all incoming trash."

Earlier this year, Sen. Cassis sponsored Senate Resolution 12, which passed unanimously, urging Congress to act on granting states the authority to control out-of-state waste.

Senate Bill 502 amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection act to prohibit materials from other states and countries such as tires, batteries, yard clippings, and used oil, from Michigan landfills. Such materials are already prohibited from Michigan waste.

"For good reasons, we don't accept certain materials from Michigan trash, it only makes sense that we don't accept those same materials from out-of-state sources," Cassis said.

Cassis will provide testimony on her bill and other steps she has taken as a lawmaker on the issue at the second of three joint hearings of the House Land Use and Environment Committee and the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee on Wed. May 28 at Meads Mill Middle School in Northville at 6:30 p.m.

The first Committee hearing was held at Oakland University in Rochester May 21, and the third hearing is scheduled for 8 o'clock a.m. Tues. June 3 at the Boji Tower in Lansing. Public comment is welcome.

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